REMARKS

Initially, Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for acknowledging Applicants' claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. §119, as well as receipt of a certified copy of the priority document upon which the claim for foreign priority is based. Applicants would also like to thank the Examiner for acknowledging consideration of each of the documents listed on the Form PTO-1449 submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement filed on June 16, 2005.

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by GRAZIANO et al. (U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2002/0111698). Applicants traverse the outstanding rejection.

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 1-10 will have been cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Claims 11-18 will have been added for consideration. The cancellation of claims 1-10 should not be considered an indication of Applicants' acquiescence as to the propriety of the outstanding rejection. Rather, Applicants have cancelled claims 1-10 and added claims 11-18 to eliminate noted informalities, advance prosecution and obtain early allowance of the claims.

The outstanding rejection has been rendered moot by the cancellation of claims 1-10. Nevertheless, Applicants traverse the outstanding rejection insofar as claims 11-18 recite combinations of features similar to the combinations of features previously recited in claims 1-10.

GRAZIANO is directed to a web-based system that allows a remote device to monitor and control a home-based device. Claim 11 recites, *inter alia*, an address storage operable to acquire and store a current address of the remotely-controlled device on the network by communicating with the remotely-controlled device through the network at constant time intervals. The Office Action cited portions of GRAZIANO in Figure 6 and at paragraph [0038] as teaching an address

storage operable to acquire a latest address of the device on the network by communicating at a predetermined time interval through the network. However, the cited teachings of GRAZIANO do not disclose the above-noted features of claim 11. That is, the cited portions of GRAZIANO do not teach or suggest acquiring a current address of the remotely-controlled device on the network, let alone acquiring the current address of the remotely-controlled device on the network by communicating with the remotely-controlled device through the network at constant time intervals.

Claim 11 also recites, *inter alia*, a first communication interface operable to transmit, through the network at constant time intervals to the remotely-controlled device based on the current address stored in the address storage, a status notification request. In contrast, the cited portions of GRAZIANO at paragraphs [0057] and [0080] merely teach control panel program 76 and an example in which a home attendant 31 configures and collects monitoring information about selected home devices 40n, based on a user's selection. That is, GRAZIANO teaches monitoring the home devices 40n in response to a user's selection, and not at constant time intervals, as recited in claim 11. The claimed status notification request to the remotely-controlled device occurs at constant time intervals, irrespective of a status request from the terminal device.

Furthermore, claim 11 recites, *inter alia*, a second communication interface operable to transmit the stored status information to the terminal device through the network in response to a status request from the terminal device. In this regard, the cited portion of GRAZIANO at paragraph [0039] is directed to a web-based host 70 logging an event in a database and communicating the data to a user's remote device 10n, either immediately or at a later time. However, GRAZIANO does not teach or suggest that the event logged by the web-based host 70 is communicated to the user's remote device 10n in response to a request from the user's remote device 10n. Rather, GRAZIANO merely teaches communicating information about the home

devices 10*n* directly from the home attendant 31 located at the home, in response to a user's selection. Additionally, the cited portion of GRAZIANO at paragraph [0057] teaches various applications implementing control panel programs 76. Accordingly, the cited portions of GRAZIANO do not teach or suggest transmitting stored status information to the terminal device through the network in response to a status request from the terminal device.

As set forth above, GRAZIANO does not disclose, suggest or render obvious the combination of features recited in independent claim 11. Accordingly, independent claim 11 is allowable over GRAZIANO for at least the reasons discussed above.

The method of claim 15 is allowable for reasons similar to those noted above as to the allowability of claim 11, in addition to reasons related to its own recitations. Claims 12-14 and 16-18 are each allowable at least for depending, directly or indirectly, from an allowable independent claim, as well as for additional reasons related to their own recitations.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attached thereto.
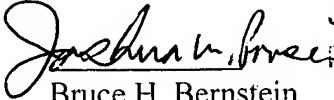
At least in view of the herein-contained amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejection, together with an indication of the allowability of all pending claims, in due course. Such action is respectfully requested and is believed to be appropriate and proper.

Should an extension of time be necessary to maintain the pendency of this application, including any extensions of time required to place the application in condition for allowance by an

Examiner's Amendment, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee to

Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the

undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully Submitted,
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December 9, 2007
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